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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/783,918

02/15/2001

Louis L. Hsu

728-191
(YOR9-2000-0786)

1344

7590

06/24/2003

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EXAMINER

HO, HOAI V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2818

DATE MAILED: 06/24/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/783,918

Applicant(s)

HSU ET AL.

Examiner

Hoai V. Ho

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 May 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7, 9-11, 13 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 5, 6, 8, 12, 15 and 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 February 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Response to Amendment

1. This office action is responsive to communication(s) filed on May 15, 2003.

2. Claims 1-16 are presented for examination.

Claim 14 has been amended.

Claims 17-20 have been canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1, lines 2 and 3, "a control signal for activating one of a single wordline and at least two wordlines" is unclear and confusing. Should "one of" in line 3 of claim 1 be changed to —between— for clarifying?

Similarly, should "one of" in line 5 of claim 10 be changed to —between— for clarifying?

Claim 14, lines 4 and 5, "wordline activation circuitry for enabling single wordline activation or dual wordline activation according to said received at least one control signal" is unclear as the novel invention. Should "single wordline activation or" in line 4 of claim 14 be changed to —between single wordline activation and— for clarifying?

Claims 1-9, 11-13, 15 and 16 are rejected due to the rejections of the parent claim.

Allowability Withdrawn

4. The indicated allowability of claim 3 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Shimano et al. USP 6452859. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

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5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1, 7, 9-11 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al. USP 5862095.

Figure 4B of Takahashi is directed to a memory array system comprising a plurality of memory cells arranged in a data array (fig. 1) and wordline decoding circuitry (TO XDEC) for receiving a control signal (RDC, col. 7, lines 22-26 and col. 8, lines 59-61) for activating one of a single wordline (a normal mode, col. 6, lines 49-59, col. 8, lines 30-38) and at least two wordlines (refresh mode, col. 1, lines 32-40 of a plurality of wordlines traversing the plurality of memory cells during a data array accessing cycle (fig. 7 or 8).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al. USP 5862095.


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Takahashi discloses all the subject matter claimed except for wherein said wordline decoding circuitry includes a pre-decoder circuit having a logic circuit for receiving the control signal and two logic inputs and outputting at least one wordline selection signal to wordline activating means. However, Figures 4A and 11 of Takahashi show the refresh judgment circuit RDC which determines the normal operation mode or the refresh operation mode (col. 7, lines 22-26 and col. 8, lines 59-61) connected to a pre-decoder circuit (PRAD, col. 11, lines 34 et seq.) through a row address decoder RAB. However, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to recognize that Takahashi could have the equivalents circuitry which has the same function as the claimed invention in order to activate between the normal mode for selecting one word line and the refresh operation mode for selecting at least two wordlines.

9. When responding to the office action, Applicants are advised to provide the examiner with the line numbers and page numbers in the application and/or references cited to assist the examiner to locate the appropriate paragraphs.

10. A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 (three) months and 0 (zero) day from the date of this letter. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned (see MPEP 710.02 (b)).

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to whose telephone number is (703) 308-4839. Other inquiries of this application should be called to (703) 308-0956.


H. Ho
June 6, 2003


Hoai V. Ho
Primary Examiner
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